

Dying Captain Sticks to Post

Mortally Wounded at Pearl Harbor, Asks, 'How's Fight Going?'

WASHINGTON—Soon after the battle of Pearl Harbor, the navy, in announcing the death of Capt. Merlyn S. Bennett, pointed out that the officer had declined to leave the ship after his wounds, even after his stomach had been lacerated by the splinter of a bomb.

In a memorandum issued to the press, it made public an anonymous eyewitness account of Captain Bennett's death.

It read as follows: "I came out of the coming tower just after the captain had been hit by a splinter of a bomb intended for another ship. He was lying across the signal bridge, with the top of his stomach laid open.

"Anxious About Battle. "At that time I was the only officer with him and he was very anxious to know how the battle was proceeding and what action our ship had taken. I knew him informed as much as possible and then, in the absence of morphine, attempted to give him ether.

"I remained with him for about a half hour as he lay there, and later moved him into shelter under the bridge, but he refused to be moved either from the bridge or into the coming tower for protection.

"Later a senior officer arrived and attempted to direct his removal from the bridge, but the captain again refused and remained on the bridge. A pharmacist's mate arrived to administer as much first aid as possible. When all the officers and men on the bridge had been cut off from below by fire, it was again suggested to the captain that he be moved from the ship, but he refused, and it was necessary, because of the flames, for the officers to take him up to the navigation bridge, just above the flag bridge, where he remained until his body was removed later.

"First Thought of Men. "What he wanted to know most was how the battle was proceeding. He asked two or three times, 'How's the fight going?' His next concern was to get all wounded men out of the ship and to have all available men in condition to get on other ships to fight. His first thought was of his men.

"Messed to hear what guns were able to fire. He was removed that afternoon.

"He made all of his men go to their stations. A marine (who was manning his station on the forecast of a ship alongside) saw the captain try several times to get up. The captain, because of his wound, had lost control of his legs and tried repeatedly to get up but was unable to do so.

"There is reason to believe that Captain Bennett died about 11 o'clock on the morning of December 7. He was alone, and he had having resisted all efforts to take him off the bridge and having ordered all officers and men to their stations.

"The pharmacist's mate was with Captain Bennett for a short time, but was ordered away by the captain to take care of others.

"His concern was for the safety of his own ship and particularly his men."

California Pays Workers To Learn Aircraft Trade

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—A statewide program to train thousands of men and women as skilled aircraft workers has been inaugurated in California.

Persons between the ages of 17 and 44 are eligible for the courses, which will be conducted in junior colleges throughout the state. Applicants will be selected on the basis of mechanical aptitude tests and will be paid \$75 per month while learning.

Classes are offered in engine, propeller and instrument mechanics, radio, electricity, sheet metal, welding, machine repair, painting, leather and canvas working, aircraft mechanics, wireworking, carpentry, plumbing, hydraulics and woodworking.

British War Hero's Widow Will Run for Parliament

WELLINGTON—In response to widespread demand among the electorate, Mrs. Arthur Grigg, widow of Major Grigg, a member of the New Zealand parliament who was killed in Libya, has become a candidate for the Mid-Canterbury seat on the National party ticket. It is believed in Christchurch that no other candidate will be nominated.

Soda Takes 30 Pct. of Vitamin B, Doctor Says

NEW ORLEANS—Hot Southern biscuits made with soda may taste fine, but they're far short in needed vitamin content.

Dr. William H. Sebrell, deputy assistant director for nutrition in the office of defense, health, welfare and related activities, told the New Orleans Medical assembly the use of soda in making biscuits destroyed 30 per cent of the thiamin (vitamin B) content.

Hunger Pangs Plaguing Reich

Shortage of Food and Fast Fading Buying Power of Money Reported.

WASHINGTON—The German people are feeling their first serious pangs of hunger. Their money is fast losing its purchasing power. They travel only if they must—and can. All of their sports events have been canceled. They can't get an aching tooth fixed without a long wait, if at all.

Those are the highlights of a sketch of life in Germany today, drawn from a European vantage point for the United Press by a responsible and competent source in a position to do the job with a high degree of accuracy.

This is the situation as Adolf Hitler gives his armies for the vaunted spring offensive. Unless it brings some substantial victories, the source believes, the Nazis are likely to be faced with an openly disgruntled home front.

But with the third spring of war just around the corner, the German people are competing with one another to "misdirect orders, muddle commands, and lose instructions."

The 23-year-old pilot hopes to be an instructor, then present himself to the army air corps or the Royal Canadian air force.

French Show Germans
What Red Tape Really Is
LONDON—The French are competing with one another to "misdirect orders, muddle commands, and lose instructions."

The British Broadcasting corporation did not name the newspaper.

Chain new British Spitfire planes are superior models to fighter planes produced by Germany.

A great deal of bartering is going on in Germany, according to the account forwarded to the United Press. The people are ready to trade any imaginable article, but they won't sell it, since their marks are worth much.

Many shopkeepers inform their customers that they can't sell any more because of a shortage in stocks and an avalanche of orders.

Sports Are No More.
Sports are no more. Even the widely popular soccer matches were canceled six weeks ago. The general cancellation of all sports, however, is jammed, as they are the only comfortable places existing in Berlin and other principal cities.

Bootlegging in Berlin flourishes. In a manner reminiscent of prohibition days in the United States, party binges and the wealthy can afford to buy of Scotch—for 200 marks.

The traditional German beer is almost undrinkable, as the alcoholic content has been lowered twice. All over Germany the shortage of dentists is remarked. Patients consult the few remaining ones only in the most extreme cases, and then they have to wait their turn.

The same is true of physicians and medical experts in general.

Truck Driver's Hobby Compiling Statistics

MOUNT JOY, Pa.—Statistics may seem dull to most people, but not to Charles Z. Derr, who is collecting them as a delivery truck driver. He generally sticks to one field for a year.

In 1938, he kept account of the number of times he used the foot brake. His total was 30,783. The next year, he counted stops made and had a total of 16,271. In 1940, he changed gears 80,322 times. Last year, he entered and left the cab 30,184 times.

Derr saves things, too. He has 514 cigs that were given to him, some 24 years old. He always saves money that he finds and prizes awarded to him for boyhood heroism. He doesn't want to "use up" his good luck.

Lad's Wish for Antlers Is Fulfilled by Deer

PORT COLLINS, COLO.—Aladdin rubbing his lamp couldn't have been more surprised than Lawrence Thompson, 17, who only rubbed his hands together with his father in Poudre canyon near here, Lawrence saw a buck deer adorned by magnificent antlers.

'Flying Harvest Hand' Now Prep for Army Role

PASCO, WASH.—George W. Shoemaker, the "Flying Harvest Hand" of eastern Washington's wheatfields, has discovered a unique way of earning his commercial flying license.

He flies over huge tracts of wheat, searching for overlooked clusters of stacked wheat, and tells the farmers where to find them. This year the demand for his services rose a notch, because wheat had grown unusually high and therefore was being topped high. This makes it difficult to spot the sacks from the ground.

Because he doesn't have a commercial license, Shoemaker is paid by farmers to walk around the field looking for stacked wheat. He doesn't find any, but he gets paid for it—whereupon, he climbs into a rented plane and finds the stacked wheat from the air.

Shoemaker's income pays for the rent of the plane, but he gets his hours in the air. The farmer is happy; he gets his lost wheat.

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Teste: C. W. Smith, Clerk M. Abbott, p. q. (4-30-42)

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A Dine Out
Every Dollar in
U.S. War Bonds

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Phone 30 with Personnel.

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